



BIBLIOTHECA MEDICA CANADIANA

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AVERTISSEMENT AUX AUTEURS . INFORMATION FOR CONTRIBUTORS

The Bibliotheca Medica Canadiana is a vehicle for providing an increased communication among all health libraries and librarians in Canada, but has special commitment to reach and assist the smaller, isolated health library worker. Contributors should consult recent issues for examples of the types of material and general style sought by the publication. Queries to the editor are also welcome. Bibliographic references should conform to the format used in the Bulletin of the Medical Library Association, whenever possible. Submissions in English or French are welcome, preferable in both languages. Deadline for the next issue is : February 5, 1982.

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Bibliotheca Medica Canadiana veut améliorer la communication entre toutes les bibliothèques canadiennes de la santé et les bibliothécaires eux-mêmes mais plus particulièrement rejoindre et aider ceux qui oeuvrent seuls dans les petites bibliothèques. La rédaction recevra avec plaisir commentaires et opinions. A ceux qui voudraient participer à la rédaction, on suggère de suivre pour les références bibliographiques le format utilisé dans le Bulletin of the Medical Library Association. Les articles, en français ou en anglais, sont les bienvenus, mais il serait préférable de les rédiger dans les deux langues. La date limite pour un envoi à paraître au prochain numéro est : le 5 fevrier, 1982.

EDITORIAL

After a long rest, BMC finally reappears. Thanks to our Canadian postal worker friends, our scheduled issue of BMC which was to appear in the early fall has been combined with this current issue to form Volume 3, No. 2/3, 1981.

This delay has given us such a long rest that I have gotten a little out of practice. The events that preceded this issue I imagine to be every editor's nightmare...but certainly not a reality.

With three weeks to go before BMC was to arrive on the printer's desk, I had my half of the issue all typed and proofread...and ready to go. Then the day came when Pierrette and I were to sit down and go over the planning of the issue. I go to get my copy and it's not there. It's not anywhere...it's gone. The whole thing...the copy and the originals just disappeared. The good news was that it wasn't the whole issue...only half. After waiting so long for an issue of BMC, it didn't seem right to only put out half of it so I called all points East and West and mostly everyone had kept copies of their originals. I was not able to get in time the 2 Chapter reports submitted by Toronto and Manitoba. Also missing is the official announcement from CISTI regarding the agreement to permit Canadian organizations to search the MEDLARS databases on BRS. This now makes it possible for medical libraries and other institutions in Canada with BRS contracts to access the Medline and Health Planning & Administration files using the BRS/SEARCH software.

We are happy to be back and hope this issue brings all of you up to date with the events that have taken place over the last four months.

Our next issue will appear in early March. We take this opportunity to wish you a happy holiday season.

Arlene Greenberg

Pierrette Brousse

MOT DE LA REDACTION

BMC vous revient après un congé forcé: Grâce à nos amis les employés des Postes Canadiennes, nous avons pu réunir en un seul numéro celui qui devait paraître en Septembre et celui-ci pour en faire le numéro 2/3 du volume 3 pour 1981.

Après un aussi long silence, nous avions sans doute perdu le fil des évènements qui mènent à la parution d'un numéro de BMC...ce qui fait le cauchemar de tout éditeur nous est arrivé:

Trois semaines avant d'aller sous presse, Arlene avait la moitié des articles déjà dactylographiés et corrigées...prêts à partir. Le jour vint où nous devions planifié la présentation du numéro. Je cherche mon dossier...et ne le trouve pas! On ne le trouve nulle part. Les 16 pages ont disparues au complet, avec leur version originale. Heureusement, il en reste encore la moitié! Mais comment vous offrir la moitié d'un numéro après une si longue absence? Arlene s'est donc installée au téléphone pour rejoindre l'Est et l'Ouest et fort heureusement, la plupart avait encore leur copie! Il nous manque cependant les rapports des sections de Toronto et du Manitoba. IMPORTANT! Nous n'avons pu obtenir copie de l'annonce officielle par l'ICIST de son agrément à la diffusion des banques du MEDLARS par BRS. Ceci signifie qu'il est maintenant possible pour les bibliothèques médicales et les autres organisations canadiennes qui sont abonnés à BRS d'interroger MEDLINE et HEALTH PLANNING & ADMINISTRATION et de profiter des subtilités du logiciel de BRSÉSEARCH.

Nous sommes ravies d'être de retour et nous espérons que ce numéro vous donnera suffisamment d'information sur ce qui s'est passé ces derniers mois.

Notre prochain numéro paraîtra en Mars. D'ici là, nous aurons entamé une nouvelle année et saison des fêtes...Nous vous la souhaitons bonne et heureuse!

Arlene Arumberg

Pierette Bourne

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- ANN D. NEVILL

In the last BMC, I mentioned that you would receive a questionnaire - and you didn't. The mail strike intervened, and some early decisions had to be made, and I just made them. CLA has kindly agreed to help with CHLA local arrangements for our Annual Meeting, so we're going to hold it in Saskatoon just before the CLA conference. Arrangements are not totally completed, and may be slightly changed at the Board Meeting in October, but please mark your calendars for June 6-9, 1982. We hope to start with a reception on the Sunday evening, have the main programme on Monday and Tuesday, and CE courses on Wednesday. This will overlap with the first day of CLA, but I believe their programme is sparse on that day.

Sandra Langlands, University of Toronto Science and Medicine Library will be the Conference Chairperson, and Dorothy Fitzgerald, Canadian Library of Family Medicine is going to be Programme Convenor. Wilma Sweeney and Jackie MacDonald, University of Saskatchewan Health Sciences Library have agreed to be our liaison with the CLA local Arrangements Committee. These are all big jobs, and I'm sure I speak for all of you in expressing our gratitude to these people.

Linda Solmon Shiff hosted the October Board Meeting at the Canadian Nurses Association in Ottawa. It was a long day, but the pleasant surroundings made it less arduous than it could have been.

Much of the time was devoted to discussion of the Conference plans, and it was obvious that they are in good hands.

I am sad to report that Diane Thomson, our newest representative on the HSRC Advisory Committee, has had to resign because she moved out of the country. On the other hand, I am happy to be able to tell you, that Kathy Eagleton from the Brandon Hospital has kindly agreed to take Diane's place. The Board felt that Kathy would bring valuable input to the Committee from the point of view of our hospital library members.

Bill Fraser's and Anna Leith's terms of office on the Committee end in March, 1982. If you have suggestions for replacements, please send them to me before the next Board Meeting on February 13. You can suggest someone else, or volunteer yourself, and I'll be happy to send the terms of reference, etc. to anyone who is interested.

The Board has not yet solved the problem of regional representation. The Manitoba chapter suggested votes by proxy if the regional representative could not attend the meeting. Germain Chouinard suggested that a Board member be elected specifically for the East and the West. We need more input from all of you before the next meeting.

We need also to think about new BMC editors for a term to begin next summer. Volunteers will be welcome here, too.

The Board agreed to a change in the President's term of office as follows : First year, Vice President/President-Elect; Second year, President; Third year, Past-President. We felt that this would provide continuity, while keeping the fairly heavy duties of the President confined to one year, rather than the present two. Please note - this is not blatant self-seeking, since my term will still have to be two years. The Constitution Committee is working on the By-Law change, and you will probably be asked to ratify at the Saskatoon AGM.

From the correspondence I'm receiving, it seems our Committees are active, and many of you are thinking about projects and expressing your concerns. Please keep it up. The Board and I will make every effort to respond.

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RAPPORT DE LA PRESIDENTE

- ANN D. NEVILL

A cause de la grève des postes, vous n'avez pas reçu le questionnaire dont je vous avais parlé dans le dernier BMC. Des décisions s'imposaient, je les ai donc prises seule. Grâce à l'aide qu'a bien voulu nous apporter la CLA pour les arrangements de locaux, notre assemblée générale annuelle aura lieu à Saskatoon immédiatement avant le congrès de la CLA. Bien que les arrangements ne soient pas complètement conclus et que des changements peuvent être apportés à la suite de l'assemblée du Conseil d'administration, veuillez vous réserver la période du 6 au 9 juin 1982 pour notre congrès. Notre rencontre devrait débuter par une réception dimanche soir, se poursuivre lundi et mardi avec le programme principal et se terminer mercredi par les cours de formation continue. Le congrès de la CLA débute mercredi, mais je crois que son programme n'est pas très chargé ce jour-là.

Sandra Langlands, de la Bibliothèque des sciences et de médecine de l'Université de Toronto, sera la présidente d'assemblée, et Dorothy Fitzgerald, de la Bibliothèque de médecine familiale du Canada, sera la coordonnatrice du programme. Wilma Sweeney et Jackie MacDonald, de la Bibliothèque des sciences de la santé de l'Université de Saskatchewan, seront nos déléguées au comité de la CLA pour les arrangements concernant les locaux. Toutes ces personnes rempliront des fonctions exigeantes, je me permets donc au nom de tous de les remercier pour leur travail.

Linda Solomon Shiff fut notre hôtesse lors de l'assemblée du Conseil d'administration en octobre à l'Association des infirmières du Canada, qui a eu lieu à Ottawa. La journée fut longue, mais l'environnement agréable l'a rendue moins difficile qu'elle aurait pu être. La plus grande partie du temps a été consacrée au programme du congrès qui est, croyez-moi, entre bonnes mains.

Je dois malheureusement vous apprendre que Diane Thomson, notre déléguée au Comité consultatif du CBSC, a été dans l'obligation de donner sa démission car elle déménageait à l'extérieur du Canada. Par contre, j'ai le plaisir de vous annoncer que Kathy Eagleton, du Brandon Hospital, la remplacera. Le Conseil a pensé que Kathy serait un apport de valeur pour le Comité et qu'elle saurait représenter les membres de nos bibliothèques d'hôpitaux.

Les mandats de Bill Fraser et de Anna Leith au Comité se terminent en mars 1982. Si vous voulez proposer quelqu'un pour les remplacer ou que l'un de ces postes vous intéresse, il s'agit de m'envoyer le nom des personnes intéressées avant la prochaine assemblée du Conseil d'administration le 13 février. Je me ferai un plaisir d'envoyer les termes des mandats et autres documents à ceux qui les demanderont.

Le Conseil d'administration n'a pas encore résolu le problème de la représentation régionale. La section du Manitoba a proposé que les votes soient pris par procuration en l'absence du représentant régional à l'assemblée. Germain Chouinard a, pour sa part, suggéré qu'un membre du Conseil soit spécialement élu

pour l'Est et l'Ouest. Nous avons besoin de l'avis de tous avant la prochaine assemblée.

Nous devons aussi penser qu'au début de l'été prochain l'équipe de la rédaction du BMC devra être renouvelée. Les bénévoles sont bienvenus.

Le Conseil d'administration a convenu d'un changement au mandat du président, qui se traduit comme suit: la première année, vice-président/"futur président"; la deuxième année, président; et la troisième année, "ex-président". Nous avons pensé qu'en restreignant les lourdes responsabilités du président à un mandat d'un an cela amènerait une continuité. Je vous fais remarquer que cela ne me touche pas puisque mon mandat doit être de deux ans. Le Comité de la constitution est en train d'apporter ces changements aux règlements; on vous demandera probablement de les entériner à l'assemblée annuelle de Saskatoon.

D'après les lettres que nous recevons, il semble que nos comités soient actifs et que plusieurs d'entre vous aient des projets. J'espère que vous allez continuer à nous écrire. Le Conseil et moi ferons tout notre possible pour vous répondre.

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CHLA/ABSC BOARD MEETING, OCTOBER 1981

- DAVID S. CRAWFORD

The Board of CHLA/ABSC met in Ottawa on October 3 and among the items discussed were the following:

The audited financial statement for the year ending May 31 was approved and showed a surplus in the year of \$692.81 and a total equity of \$3042.79. Copies of the auditors report and statements can be obtained from the Treasurer.

The Budget for 1981/82 was discussed and it is hoped that income and expenses will balance at the end of the year. It was agreed to charge an additional \$5.00 fee to members renewing after September 15 (from 1982) in order to cover the costs of renewal notices.

The Publications Co-ordinator presented a report on CanHealth-Santé Canada, the publication previously being edited by Martha Stone and he was authorized to work with Mrs. M.A. Flower and aim for a completed first draft by December, 1981.

The Board appointed Kathy Eagleton to serve as a member of the HSRC Advisory Committee for three years. The other CHLA/ABSC representatives to this Committee are Bill Fraser and Anna Leith both of Vancouver and the Committee also has a membership of Ann Nevill, representing the ACMC Special Resource Committee on Medical School Libraries and Bernard Bedard representing the Section de la Santé of ASTED.

It was agreed to send the Association's archives to the National Library of Canada.

A budget was approved for the Annual Meeting in 1982 (Saskatoon 7-9 June) and a preliminary program was approved. Further details will be sent to members in due course.

After much discussion it was agreed that the term of office of the President would be reduced from two years to one but that a year as President-elect would be added. This change will come into effect in 1982 when a President-elect will be elected, to take office as President for one year in 1983.

As the membership fees for the International Federation of Library Associations is \$350. for CHLA it was decided not to join but it was agreed to appoint Frances Groen of McGill as our liaison with the group of IFLA planning the next international conference of medical librarians.

RAPPORT DE L'ASSEMBLÉE DU CONSEIL D'ADMINISTRATION DE L'ABSC/CHLA, OCTOBRE 1981
- DAVID S. CRAWFORD

Le Conseil de l'ABSC/CHLA s'est réuni à Ottawa le 3 octobre dernier. Voici ce qui en est ressorti:

Le rapport financier de l'exercice se terminant le 31 mai a été certifié. Il présente pour cette année un excédent de 692.81\$ et un avoir total de 3042.79\$. On peut en s'adressant au trésorier se procurer un exemplaire du rapport des vérificateurs et des états financiers.

On a passé en revue le budget pour 1981/82 et on espère que les revenus et les dépenses balanceront à la fin de l'exercice. Nous avons convenu de demander un montant supplémentaire de 5 dollars aux membres qui n'auront pas renouveler leur adhésion avant le 15 septembre (à partir de 1982), afin de couvrir les frais d'avis de renouvellement.

Le coordinateur des publications a présenté un rapport sur CanHealth/SantéCanada, publication qui était autrefois rédigée par Martha Stone. Il a été autorisé à travailler avec Mme M.A. Flower et il espère terminer une première version pour décembre 1981.

Le Conseil a nommé Kathy Eagleton membre du Comité consultatif pour trois ans. Les autres délégués de l'ABSC/CHLA à ce Comité sont Bill Fraser et Anna Leith de Vancouver, Ann Nevill qui représente le Comité spécial des ressources de l'AFMC aux bibliothèques des facultés de médecine, et Bernard Bédard qui représente la section de la Santé de l'ASTED.

Il a été convenu de transférer les archives de l'Association à la Bibliothèque nationale du Canada.

On a approuvé un budget pour l'assemblée annuelle de 1982 (à Saskatoon du 7 au 9 juin) ainsi qu'un programme préliminaire. Les membres recevront de plus amples renseignements au moment opportun.

Après discussion, il a été décidé que le mandat du président serait réduit à un an, mais qu'une année comme "futur président" y serait ajoutée. Ce changement entrera en vigueur en 1982 quand le futur président sera élu pour l'année 1983.

Puisque les frais d'adhésion à la Fédération internationale des associations de bibliothécaires et de bibliothèques (IFLA) sont de 350 dollars, il a été décidé que l'ABSC n'y adhérerait pas. Cependant, on a nommé France Groen, de l'Université McGill, déléguée au groupe de l'IFLA qui met sur pied le prochain congrès international des bibliothèques médicales.

OPEN LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT

To: Ann D. Nevill, President, Canadian Health Libraries Association

Re: Job Classifications of Health Sciences Library Staff

As president of the Toronto Medical Libraries Group and CHLA Toronto Chapter representative, I would like to propose that CHLA look into the subject of job classifications of staff employed in health sciences libraries. This subject has interested me over the past year and a half--ever since I became aware of some of the dynamics of such systems and the seeming lack of their consistent and knowledgeable application within and outside the (health) library field. I included the subject in the agenda of our first TMLG executive committee meeting for 1981/82 and we decided that if a job classification survey were conducted, it might be more successfully undertaken at a national scale by CHLA.

I am especially aware of problems in hospitals--their method of classification and renumeration can involve surveys of various large and some small employee groups, but library staff are omitted (example, Hospital Council of Metropolitan Toronto surveys). Why? I asked my administrator and he is looking into it (he happens to be an HCMT rep this year!). "Big systems" often have unions or staff associations representing employee job interests; however, even they can develop inconsistencies (example, Canadian Public Service Library Science vs. Historical Research Groups). Library technicians are often unrecognized, when it comes to salary and job benefits, compared to other technical staff (example, comparison to senior clerical levels). I think this lack of understanding and possible downgrading should be investigated and acted upon, rather than acknowledged and accepted.

I see two problems (at least) in the establishing of classification standards for library positions in hospitals--the market survey and the worth of the job to the institution. Hospitals may feel that their library positions cannot be compared to the larger library systems. Likely they do not understand or know the ranking systems, and with an inadequate understanding of library positions (e.g., lack of good job descriptions), they do not attempt to compare responsibilities etc. in this way. The worth of the job is affected by a lack of understanding of the role of the library staff, and classification reflects this. For example, there are two community hospitals in the Toronto area with salary ranges for the health sciences librarians which are nearly ten thousand dollars apart. My guess is that this difference is directly due to two different comparisons of two similar library jobs--e.g., one compared (classed) with a hospital educator and one with a medical records librarian.

Does CHLA see itself as the association we health sciences library professional and technical staff can turn to for the backup necessary to attempt to clear up some of these problems? Are the problems real? A few months ago I asked a community college librarian what group/association she thought represented us in such matters (I suggested the Canadian Library Association)..her reply: CLA is an association of libraries, not librarians. She could not answer my question. Does CHLA have an answer?

The first thing an employment officer tells me, in reply to my questions regarding the lack of survey information, is to go to your association. I have become aware of the activities and slow but sure accomplishments of other non-librarian associations, and also become aware of the lack of similar orientations in our library profession. Is there a reason for this lack? Perhaps there is an if so I would like to know. Then, I would still like to know who we can turn to for help in decreasing the inconsistencies I perceive in job classification practices in the library science field. Who do potential employers turn to for advice? If they ask library consultants of library schools, do these two groups know about CHLA and/or its chapters? Not necessarily.

The 1981 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) put out by Statistics Canada Standards Division, groups occupations using the basic principle "kind of work performed". It uses many of the same codes as the Canadian Classification and Dictionary of Occupations (CCDO), for example, professional librarians are grouped in 2351 (Librarians, Archivists and Conservators) and library technicians in 2353 (Technicians in Library, Museum and Archival Sciences). Class 23 is Occupations in Social Sciences and Related Fields, and class 235 is Occupations in Library, Museum and Archival Sciences. The SOC is designed for statistical surveys--it does not intend to list all possible jobs but does list a good number, e.g., Reference Librarian, Cataloguer, Medical Librarian, Hospital Librarian (all in 2351). The CCDO includes "Health Librarian" in its new 1980 edition; the CCDO is not the same as the SOC (put out for the needs of Employment and Immigration Canada) and in the case of the health librarian title, it represents an alternate to their description under "Special Librarian." The new CCDO excludes hospital librarian (fine, the terms are changing; an old edition of one of these national classification systems put hospital librarians and prison librarians together).

The SOC is published every ten years. The 1981 edition has a number of new example job titles, as would be expected. Two of these are "Health Record Librarian" and "Film Librarian" and they are placed in 2351 with other professional librarians. Why? Did Statistics Canada get information from some library association to make its classification decisions? The old 1965 edition of the U.S. equivalent to the CCDO, Dictionary of Occupational Titles (DOT) had Medical Record Librarians and Film Librarians grouped in this way but changed that in the 1977 4th edition. The CCDO places the Medical Records Librarian in the clerical group with library clerks (4161). Since institutions' classification officers submit information to Statistics Canada and use their codes for guidelines (I assume), I think the easy use of "librarian" and its resulting misunderstandings can only lead to confusion and inconsistencies in job

classifications and ultimately a wide varitey of salary ranges assigned to similar jobs. This is not right and should be clarified and corrected. It is interesting that medical records librarians are now often being called "Health Record Administrators." Even Index Medicus excludes the librarian term (MeSH change '77-) and subject classifies the group with other clerical allied health workers.

The effect of these non-librarian job inclusions is felt most in a hospital setting but professional health librarians in other institutions should question it too--does Statistics Canada know what "we" do or what "they" do? Who advises them? Do they make assumptions as many seem to do? By the way, SOC's 2353 group has no "Library Technician" job title listed (the SOC does refer the reader to the "library technical assistant" in 2353, from class 4161 clerical library workers). The CCDO does describe the library technician, with a good position summary (slightly updated from the 1st 1971 edition).

Health sciences librarians and library technicians were first included in the Canadian Hospital Directory in 1979. (They failed to index us under a library subject heading because they assigned the heading "Health Sciences" in the main listing and used the same terms in their subject index) I am glad to see that we are included. I believe the professionalism of health sciences librarians can only be better understood if they are included with other health professionals and treated as such. Similarly for technicians--their education and skills are just as important in the library job as in the laboratory job (for example) compared to other clerical jobs with on-the-job training. There really is a great deal of ignorance on the part of hospital administrators and other health professionals about the whole spectrum of librarianship (educational background, job responsibilities, department head capabilities, etc.) and I feel our profile needs a big boost upwards. I would like to recommend, also, a reconsideration of the setting aside of Mrs. Flower's CANHELP project. I feel our members need more education to raise their awareness of the interaction of librarians and their users and their administrators. Only a strong, active and knowledgeable association of librarians can hope to correct some of the inconsistencies listed above. Many librarians and administrators are unaware of the injustice of classifications and it should be brought to their attention.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth A. Reid
President, Toronto Medical Libraries Group

CHLA/ABSC ANNUAL CONFERENCE, SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN, JUNE 7-9, 1982

CHALLENGES AND CHANGES

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

Monday June 7

8:00 - 12:00	Registration
9:00 - 9:05	Introduction - Sandra Langlands, Conference Chairman
9:05 - 9:15	Welcome - Ann Neville, CHLA President
9:15 - 9:30	Welcome Address - Dr. R.G. Murray, Dean of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan (not confirmed)
9:30 - 10:30	Key Note Speaker - Continuing Medical Education in Saskatchewan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - with special reference to the role of the medical school library and the hospital libraries. - Dr. O.E. Laxdale, Director, Continuing Medical Education, University of Saskatchewan
10:30 - 11:00	Break - Visit the Exhibits
11:00 - 12:00	ECONOMIC CUTBACKS - How to manage a library in an era of fiscal restraint <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jayne Mortenson, Head, Public Services, Edmonton Public Library
12:00 - 1:30	Lunch
1:30 - 2:30	"Small Group Sessions" - Discussion leaders will speak for 30 minutes on their situation, problems, solutions, etc. prior to the general discussion. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Government Libraries - Daphne Dolan (Ottawa) 2. Setting up an information service and networking -Catherine Ferguson (Saskatoon) 3. Kathy Eagleton (Brandon) 3. Promoting Hospital Libraries - Barbara Greeniaus (Winnipeg) 4. Audio-visuals Management - Claire Callaghan (Toronto) 5. AARCII - Hanna Waluzyniec (Montreal) 6. Circuit Riders - videotape of the Pennsylvania program
2:30 - 3:00	Break - Visit the Exhibits
3:00 - 4:00	"Small Group Sessions" repeated

Tuesday June 8

8:00 - 10:00 Registration

9:00 - 10:15 "Education for Health Science Librarianship" - a panel presentation
Moderator - Alan MacDonald (Calgary)

1. The EMPLOYER'S point of view. What in terms of education, and experience is important.
Panelist - Audrey Kerr (Winnipeg)
Respondent -
2. Importance of a SCIENCES BACKGROUND for working in a health sciences library.
Panelist - Wilma Sweeney (Saskatoon)
Respondent - M.A. Flower (Montreal)
3. The LIBRARY TECHNICIAN perspective.
Panelist - Kay Beacock (Toronto)
Respondent - Deborah Newstad (Vancouver) - not confirmed.

10:15 - 10:45 Break - Visit the Exhibits

10:45 - 11:45 Education Panel Continued

4. The GRADUATE SCHOOL approach. The practicing librarian as part-time professor.
The medical school library staff sharing the teaching.
The full-time professor.
Panelist - Gale Moore (Toronto)
Respondent - Geoffrey Pendrill (London)
Respondent - Tom Flemming (Halifax)

Comments and questions from the floor

11:45 - 1:30 Lunch

1:30 - 4:30 Annual General Meeting

Wednesday June 9

9:00 - 5:00 Continuing Education Courses.

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FROM HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

CHAPTER REPORT

Officers of the Nova Scotia Health Libraries Association for the current year are : President, Verona Hall (Camp Hill Hospital Library), Vice President, Rachel Robertson (Halifax Infirmary), and Secretary, Catherine Krause (Kellogg Health Sciences Library).

The NSHLA continued it's monthly meetings throughout the summer. The June meeting was held at the Abbie J. Lane Memorial Hospital. Margaret Cooter, the hospital librarian, had invited Dorothy Smith, from the Department of Social Work, who gave an interesting overview of the evolution of the Abbie Lane's community psychiatric services. The August meeting was in the Dalhousie University College of Pharmacy library where Elizabeth Foy, pharmacy librarian, gave a critical review of Drug Literature sources.

The chapter sent a letter to the Nova Scotia Minister for Health, Dr. G. Sheehy, protesting the downgrading of the position of Librarian in the Provincial Department of Health Library to the clerical level. The reply did not provide much hope for reconsideration and various follow-up actions are being considered.

Joyce Kublin, previously Librarian at the N.S. Department of Health, is now Librarian at the Victoria General Hospital. Christine Hayward, Serials and Systems Librarian of the Kellogg Health Sciences Library since 1975 moved West in September to become Government Publications System Librarian at the University of Calgary Social Science Library. Their colleagues wish them all the best in their new positions.

Freelance Medical Librarian for the Annapolis Valley

Coral Dorosh, a graduate Library Technician from Red River Community College, Winnipeg, moved to Greenwood, Nova Scotia, in July 1980 and is currently employed by Freelance Library Services at both the Soldier's Memorial Hospital, Middleton and the Annapolis General, Annapolis Royal.

Coral has organized their collections, set up both card catalogs and serials kardexes, and maintains their circulation system. Through meetings with administrative and medical staff of the two hospitals, she has been able to make patrons more aware of library services. Coral reports that the response and support from her patrons has been excellent and with the backup support from the Regional Loan Services from Dalhousie's Kellogg Health Sciences Library, plus an increase in library funds, the future looks bright.



W A N T E D

EDITOR of BMC

The two year term of office of the present Editors of BMC ends with the production of the July 1982 issue.

Applications would be welcomed from members to serve as Editor and should be addressed to:

David S. Crawford
3655 Drummond Street
Montreal H3G 1Y6

October 8, 1981

L'INTEGRATION ET L'USAGER

- JOHANNE HOPPER

Une autre session d'automne bien en cours à l'Université de Montréal; un autre secteur, le Département de Nutrition, cette fois, intégré à la Bibliothèque Para-Médicale. Profitons du moment pour évaluer l'effet de cette intégration sur l'usager. Bonita Stableford a écrit dans "Bibliotheca Medica Canadiana" (vol. 1, no. 5, pp. 148-50) des préoccupations d'un secteur à la veille d'une intégration à une plus grosse collection de l'Université d'Ottawa. Maintenant, il faut examiner les effets subis par le secteur une fois intégré. Est-ce qu'il y a eu des avantages? Quels en sont les désavantages? Revenons donc au débat sans fin de la centralisation versus la décentralisation. Cependant, revenons-y à la lumière des restrictions budgétaires rencontrées dans les institutions publiques et para-publiques.

Depuis douze ans la Bibliothèque Para-Médicale à l'Université de Montréal a intégré cinq collections des secteurs de santé de domaines connexes. En 1967, la bibliothèque a débuté en développant une collection pour la Faculté des sciences infirmières nouvellement créée. Peu après, l'intégration des autres secteurs a commencé. Il s'agit en 1968 de l'Ecole de santé publique; en 1970 du Département d'administration de la santé; en 1974 de l'Ecole de Réadaptation; en 1981 du Département de Nutrition. En plus, deux nouveaux départements se sont ajoutés à la bibliothèque; il s'agit en 1975 du Département de médecine sociale et préventive; en 1976 du Département de médecine du travail et d'hygiène des milieux. Il va sans dire que la bibliothèque a évolué sur tous les plans afin de répondre aux besoins de sa clientèle toujours grandissante. Est-ce que cette réponse avantage ou désavantage l'usager, soit celui qui arrive, soit celui déjà sur place, par rapport à sa situation antérieure.

Regardons tout d'abord l'usager et la collection mise à sa disposition. Tous les secteurs sur place se spécialisent dans des domaines de la santé connexes et complémentaires. Donc chaque secteur peut profiter de la documentation des autres. Par exemple, un professeur de Nutrition s'est avoué heureux d'avoir découvert sur place une documentation en gérontologie et en gériatrie. Un professeur en médecine du travail profite de CRC Reviews in Toxicology, ajouté dernièrement à la collection; un autre, de JAMA; et ainsi de suite. L'usager a (à la main) une collection plus arrondie. Donc, il a moins besoin de se déplacer ou de faire appel au prêt externe.

Un résultat heureux d'une intégration c'est que le budget alloué à chaque secteur prend plus d'importance. Il ne sera dépensé que pour des titres directement de la discipline concernée, ce qui implique une économie d'au moins dix à vingt pourcent selon le secteur impliqué. Dans ce temps de coupures budgétaires, le secteur maintient au moins le statu quo.

Regardons maintenant l'usager et les services offerts, une plus grande clientèle (2300 prévue en 81/82) permet les dépenses requises pour une médiathèque, des salles de travail et des heures d'ouvertures et de prêt plus longues. Peut-être cette année il nous permettra aussi d'obtenir un terminal pour le repérage automatisé sur place. (Actuellement nos usagers doivent se déplacer à d'autres bibliothèques sur le campus). Tous nos secteurs y semblent bien intéressés, et ensemble nous avons une meilleure pression de groupe.

C'est peut-être le service de référence qui concerne le plus les nouveaux arrivés. Est-ce que le bibliothécaire de référence s'instruira assez sur leur domaine pour comprendre leurs besoins de recherches documentaires et y répondre adéquatement. De notre expérience, il semble prendre un an dès l'arrivée d'une collection jusqu'à ce que le bibliothécaire de référence se trouve à l'aise avec un nouveau domaine; un an d'investissement qui passe vite et qui rapporte beaucoup en échange.

Regardons maintenant l'usager et le milieu. La bibliothèque sert comme un terrain commun pour tous les secteurs desservis. Futures infirmières, ergothérapeutes, médecins spécialisés, orthophonistes, administrateurs, physiothérapeutes, travailleurs sociaux, diététistes ont l'occasion de se rencontrer et de travailler ensemble; c'est l'embryon de l'équipe interdisciplinaire. Ce contact est encouragé par un comité conjoint de bibliothèque pour les étudiants et un autre pour les professeurs où les questions d'intérêt commun sont discutées par l'ensemble. Souvent c'est les bibliothécaires, au courant des projets de recherche dans différents secteurs qui réfèrent, l'un à l'autre, des chercheurs travaillant sur des projets semblables. Grâce à ce genre d'interaction les chercheurs semblent profiter aussi du point de vue des collègues de domaines complémentaires. En effet, loin de se voir submergé dans une grande mer d'usagers et de documents, un nouveau secteur peut se voir plutôt valorisé par sa contribution à ces sciences connexes. Le secteur obtient un statut plus professionnels, mais aussi un peu moins familial. L'échange se vaut, il me semble.

Dans l'ensemble, un secteur intégré à une bibliothèque de grandeur moyenne (2000 usagers inscrits en 1980/81) où les domaines d'intérêt sont complémentaires et connexes devrait y trouver plus d'avantages que de désavantages.

Oui, une intégration favorise l'usager dans notre bibliothèque. Maintenant arrive le moment d'évaluer l'effet sur le personnel de la bibliothèque... Mais ça c'est une autre paire de manches.

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ANNOUNCING A NEW HEALTH SCIENCE LIBRARY...

Health Science Library,
General & Marine Hospital,
1201 6th St.,
Owen Sound, Ontario. N4K 5H3.

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NOUVEAUX DU CENTRE BIBLIOGRAPHIQUE DES SCIENCES DE LA SANTÉ (ICIST)

Répertoire des sources de connaissances de l'ICIST

Le Répertoire des sources de connaissances (RSC) conservé par l'ICIST est un inventaire des spécialistes canadiens œuvrant dans le domaine de la science et de la technologie. Ce répertoire créé par ordinateur permet au personnel de l'ICIST de retracer des spécialistes dans un domaine donné et de diriger les clients vers ces spécialistes canadiens. La base de données du RSC englobe plus de 3000 profils de scientifiques participants venant de quatorze ministères du gouvernement fédéral, douze universités canadiennes et du personnel de certains gouvernements provinciaux et autres organismes de recherche. Le RSC comprend un index alphabétique par sujets, une liste des profils individuels et un fichier d'identification. Afin de sauvegarder la confidentialité, le personnel de l'ICIST s'assure du spécialiste qu'il acceptera la demande. L'accès au RSC est gratuit. Si vous désirez utiliser ce service, veuillez communiquer avec le personnel du CBSS au (613) 993-1604 ou avec la section des renseignements bibliographiques de l'ICIST au (613) 993-2013.

Les films du NMAC offerts au Canada

Le U.S. National Medical Audiovisual Centre (NMAC) a déménagé son siège social d'Atlanta, en Géorgie, au Lister Hill Center de la NLM au cours de 1980. A la fin de ce déménagement et de la pénurie de personnel qu'il entraîna, le NMAC a dû réduire ses services de prêt et de distribution. De retour à la normale, le NMAC annonce maintenant que sa collection de films 16mm pourra être prêtée au Canada. La collection comprend plus de 700 films dans tous les domaines des sciences de la santé. Les fonds du NMAC figurent dans son catalogue Films for the Health Sciences (édition 1981), vendu par le U.S. Government Printing Office. Le prix de l'édition courante est de 8.75 \$ US et il faut rappeler le numéro de publication (S/N 017-052-0021-0) sur toutes les commandes.

On peut emprunter les films en communiquant avec le:

National Medical Audiovisual Center
 Materials Utilization Branch
 8600 Rockville Pike
 Bethesda, Maryland
 USA 20209

A compter du 1er octobre 1981, il en coûtera 10. \$ US pour emprunter des films du NMAC. Les réservations doivent être faites par écrit au moins trois semaines avant la date de la séance de projection. Une autre date de projection doit être prévue dans le cas où le film demandé aurait déjà été réservé. A cause des lois américaines d'importation et d'exportation, certains titres ne sont parfois pas distribués au Canada. Le NMAC ne prête pas présentement ses enregistrements magnétoscopiques au Canada mais songe à offrir ce service éventuellement.

FROM THE HEALTH SCIENCES RESOURCE CENTRE, CISTI
- BONITA STABLEFORD

CISTI'S KNOWLEDGE SOURCE INDEX

The Knowledge Source Index maintained by CISTI is an inventory of Canadian experts in the fields of science and technology. This computer - generated registry allows CISTI staff to locate appropriate experts and to refer clients to Canadian experts in their area of interest. The KSI data base contains more than 3,000 profiles of cooperating scientists from fourteen federal government departments, twelve Canadian universities and staff from some provincial governments and other research organizations. The KSI consists of an alphabetical subject index, a listing of individual profiles and an identification file. In order to maintain confidentiality, CISTI staff will contact the appropriate experts on your behalf to obtain permission to refer your request. There is no charge for accessing the KSI. If you wish to use this service, please contact HSRC staff (613) 993-1604 or CISTI's Reference Section (613) 993-2013.

NMAC FILMS AVAILABLE IN CANADA

The U.S. National Medical Audiovisual Centre (NMAC) moved from its Atlanta, Georgia headquarters to NLM's Lister Hill Center in 1980. Due to the move and subsequent staff shortages, NMAC drastically reduced its loan and distribution services. Now that operations have returned to normal, NMAC has recently announced that its collection of 16 mm films will be available for loan to Canada. The collection includes over 700 films in all fields in the health sciences. NMAC's holdings are listed in NMAC's catalogue Films for the Health Sciences (1981 edition) which is available for sale from the U.S. Government Printing Office. The price for the current edition is \$8.75 US and the publication number (S/N 017-052-0021-0) should be included with all orders.

Films are available on loan by contacting :

National Medical Audiovisual Center
Materials Utilization Branch
8600 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, Maryland
USA 20209

NMAC's loan charges are \$10 US per title effective October 1st, 1981 and all bookings must be requested in writing. Bookings should be requested at least 3 weeks prior to the showing date and an alternate

showing date should be given. Selected titles may not be available for distribution in Canada due to American import and export regulations. NMAC does not currently loan videocassette programs to Canada, but will consider adding this service in the future.

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THE OTTAWA SEMINAR

- DAVID S. CRAWFORD

The Ottawa Civic Hospital celebrated the 21st anniversary of the Dr. George S. Williamson Health Sciences Library by organizing a Seminar on Wednesday October 14. The major speakers were Dr. Martin Cummings of the U.S. National Library of Medicine, who spoke on the current state of medical information services and what the future holds and R. Griffith McDonald, the Manager of Planning and Advanced Technology at University Microfilms International, who discussed the use of video technology (such as Telidon) and the "electronic publishing" now being used by more and more publishers.

Also in the programme was a Panel discussion between a medical author, a medical editor and a user of literature on the role and needs of each and how each complements the other. The day concluded by a discussion between the two principal speakers and librarians from the Ottawa area (many of whom had not been able to attend the morning sessions) on the future of libraries and the inherent conflicts between the vendors of profit orientated data bases and those created by public funds.

In total, the Seminar was an excellent one and both the Ottawa Civic Hospital and Miss Mabel Brown, their librarian, are to be congratulated on organizing an event designed to re-emphasize the close connections which exist between the creators and users of medical information ("the doctor") and the facilitators and organizers of this information ("the medical librarian").

CANADIAN LIBRARIES IN OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH MEET

- W. KEITH McLAUGHLIN

Canadian Libraries in Occupational Safety and Health met in June, 1981, in Hamilton in conjunction with the Canadian Library Association's annual conference, at the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety.

Canadian Libraries in Occupational Safety and Health was founded in June, 1980, in Vancouver, to act as a forum for discussion and increased resource-sharing.

While the field of occupational health and safety is increasingly of legislative, social, medical, and economic importance, historically there have been relatively few libraries and collections in Canada specializing in this subject area.

Over the past decade, with the growing consciousness of government, the individual workers, and labour unions, the demands upon existing occupational health and safety libraries have increased to the point where it is imperative for libraries and librarians to be more aware of other Canadian occupational health and safety collections and to increasingly share the available resources.

The institutions which sent representatives to the meeting this year included the Saskatchewan Department of Labour, Labour Canada, Ontario Federation of Labour, Industrial Accident Prevention Association, Commission de la sante et de la securite au travail du Quebec, Ontario Ministry of Labour, Health and Welfare Canada, Alberta Workers' Health, Safety and Compensation, and the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety. Other members include the Workers' Compensation Board of British Columbia, Nova Scotia Department of Health, Nova Scotia Department of Labour and Man-power, Manitoba Department of Labour, Department of Justice and Public Services, Government of the Northwest Territories, Department of Public Health, City of Toronto, and the Health Sciences Resource Centre, Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information.

The meeting was hosted by Marilyn Moore, Librarian/Information Resource Manager, Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety, and chaired by W. Keith McLaughlin, Librarian, Alberta Workers' Health, Safety and Compensation. Marilyn Moore was elected Chairman for 1981-82.

A tour of the new Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety was included in the information afternoon.

Canadian Libraries in Occupational Safety and Health completed its 1980-82 objective of publishing the Directory of occupational health and safety libraries and collections in Canada, a project arising from the first annual CLOSH meeting in Vancouver in June, 1980. Member libraries will be encouraged as a goal for 1981-82 to report their serial holdings to the Union list of scientific serials held by Canadian libraries to be available online in the UNION file on CAN/OLE.

The Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety will also act as a clearinghouse for Canadian materials in this subject area and members will forward the publications of their respective institutions, in order that Canadian materials be included in the CIS microfilm collection in Geneva and listed in the CIS Abstracts and on the CIS data base.

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THE CANADIAN SCENE...PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

CANADIAN LIBRARY OF FAMILY MEDICINE, UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO, LONDON, ONTARIO.

Ms. Lynn Dunikowski has been appointed Librarian Researcher for the Family Medicine Literature Index (FAMLI) effective September 1, 1981. Ms. Dunikowski graduated from the School of Library and Information Science, University of Western Ontario, in April of 1981.

GENERAL CENTRE MEDICAL LIBRARY, HEALTH SCIENCES CENTRE, WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

Barbara Henwood is now on maternity leave from the Health Sciences Centre. Jill Brown is currently holding the fort until Barbara returns.

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY, KINGSTON, ONTARIO

Miss Virginia Parker, the Librarian of the Bracken Library, Botterell Hall, Queen's University, will retire at the end of calendar year 1981. Mrs. Gwen Wright will succeed Miss Parker. Mrs. Wright is transferring from her position as head of the Education Library of Queen's University.

UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA, OTTAWA, ONTARIO

Dr. David Holmes, formerly of CISTI is the new Science and Medicine Librarian at the University of Ottawa.

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ANNOUNCING A NEW BMC CORRESPONDENT

Kathy Eagleton, Library Services, Brandon General Hospital, Brandon, Manitoba.

WELCOME ABOARD! !

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INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS (IFLA)

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

ASTED is pleased to announce that it will host the 48th General Conference of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) which will be held in Montreal at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel, 22-28 August 1982. The theme of the conference is "Networks".

IFLA includes among its members not only library associations but institutions (public, national or other libraries) and individuals as well.

This will be the second only occasion since its creation in 1927 that IFLA has held its General Conference in Canada, bringing together delegates from some 107 member countries. The Canadian Library Association was the host in Toronto in 1967.

Exhibits at the 1982 Conference will provide the occasion for the delegates to get acquainted with the products and services of some one hundred organizations, both private and public.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

In keeping with the importance of this conference, ASTED has already set up an Organizing Committee made up of the following persons:

Onil Dupuis	President of the Organizing Committee and President of the Local Arrangement Sub-Committee
Hubert Perron	Vice-President of the Organizing Committee and President of the Finance Sub-Committee
Gilles Frappier	Secretary
Claire Audet	Treasurer
Miriam Tees	President of the Program Sub-Committee
Claire Côté	President of the Exhibits Sub-Committee
Colette Rivet	President of the Publications Sub-Committee
Denis Rousseau	President of the Information and Publicity Sub-Committee
Lise Brousseau	Executive Director of ASTED
Marcel Lajeunesse	ASTED delegate to IFLA and President of the Liaison Committee

The President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer constitute the Executive Committee of the Organizing Committee.

ASTED has also set up an Honor Committee composed of individuals representing major interested Quebec and Canadian institutions. Under the presidency of Mr. Gérard Lamarche, Director of the Régie de la Place des Arts, this committee will participate in the orientation of the work of the Organizing Committee. The first meeting of the committee was held in February 1980.

The Organizing Committee of the Conference will also work in collaboration with the Liaison Committee under the presidency of Mr. Marcel Lajeunesse, ASTED delegate to IFLA. This committee is composed of representatives of the various Canadian associations which are members of IFLA.

Registration fees for the Conference (all sessions included) have been set at 125.00 \$US.

For any additional information, please communicate with the President of the Organizing Committee, Mr. Onil Dupuis, in Montreal (514-288-8524) or the President of the Information and Publicity Sub-Committee, Mr. Denis Rousseau (514-873-5291). Any correspondence may be sent to the following address:

IFLA
C.P. 1144
Succursale Place Desjardins
Montréal, Québec.
H5B 1B3

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NEWS...

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Haworth Press, Inc. has recently announced a new journal to be published in 1982, entitled Medical Reference Services Quarterly. The first issue of this quarterly publication is scheduled for Spring, 1982. The subscription rate for libraries is \$45 US and for individuals is \$25 US. This new journal will publish brief, practice-oriented articles and will emphasize the use of computerized online search services.

Haworth Press also publishes quarterly journals entitled Science & Technology Libraries (v. 1 No. 1 Fall 1980 - \$42 US) and Special Collections (v. 1 No. 1 Spring, 1981 - \$85 US). Individual issues are available for sale and the following issues may be of interest to health science librarians :

Biochemistry Collections

Bernard S. Schlessinger, Editor
(Special Collections v. 1 No. 2 Summer 1981)
ISBN 0-917724-48-8 \$29.95 176 pages

Gerontology & Geriatrics Collections

Prisca von Dorotka Bagnell, Editor
(Special Collections v.1 No. 3 Fall 1981)
ISBN 0-917724-53-4 \$24.95 176 pages

Planning for Sci-Tech Online Searching

Ellis Mount, Editor
(Science & Technology Libraries v. 1 No. 1 March, 1981)
ISBN 0-917724-73-9 \$15.00

Training of Sci-Tech Librarians & Library Users

Ellis Mount, Editor
(Science & Technology Libraries v. 1 No. 4 October 1981)
ISBN 0-917724-75-5 \$15.00

**ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF LIBRARY TECHNICIANS/ASSOCIATION DES
BIBLIOTECHNICIENS DE L'ONTARIO**

New View in '82

The 9th Annual Conference of the Ontario Association of Library Technicians/Association des Bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario (OALT/ABO) is being held May 13-15, 1982, at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay,

Ontario. The theme of the Conference is the "New View in '82" with a proposed slate of 15 different workshops. For further information and registration forms please contact : LaRea Moody, Conference Chairperson, Thunder Bay Region, P.O. Box 3332, Thunder Bay, Ontario P7B 5J8.

CONSUMER HEALTH INFORMATION INTEREST GROUP

Also a special interest group of MLA, and also birthed in Montreal. Proposing a consumer health session as part of the 1982 MLA meeting in Anaheim, California. Steering Committee in action and further information available from :

Barbara B. Goldberg
Chief, Library Services
Medical Library 142 D
V.A. Medical Center,
New York, NY 10010 (chairman)

or Jennifer J. Angier
Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic Library
3811 O'Hara Street,
Pittsburgh, PA 15261

More information from Kathy Eagleton, who attended the organizing meeting.

ESSAY CONTEST

OALT/ABO is pleased to announce that it is sponsoring an annual research essay contest in order to encourage and promote a continuing dialogue between library technicians and other related professions.

The judging panel consists of librarians, library technicians and English and French specialists who are recognized authorities in their fields. Essays may be submitted in either French or English and will be judged in the language of submission.

Prizes will be awarded for first, second, and third places and for three runners-up.

Further details may be obtained by writing to :

Andrew Porteus, Chairman
OALT/ABO Essay Contest
P.O. Box 611
Niagara Falls, Ontario
L2E 6V5.

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PUBLICATIONS

The publication of the second edition of Selected Books and Journals for Manitoba Health Care Facilities by the Manitoba Health Libraries Association (MHLA) is now available.

As with the first edition, the work has been prepared with the assistance of subject experts at the University of Manitoba Faculty of Medicine, and major hospitals, schools of nursing, and health organizations in the province. It is divided into four sections, covering basic texts and journals in the fields of medicine, nursing allied health and long-term care, with an additional section listing reference tools.

Full ordering and pricing information is included and author and title indexes provide quick and easy access. Copies available, prepaid orders only, for \$5.00 (includes postage and handling) from:

Judy Inglis, Extension Librarian
Medical Library
University of Manitoba
770 Bannatyne Ave.
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3E 0W3

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ARTICLES OF INTEREST

1. Holden C. Library of Medicine versus Private Enterprise: conflict over proposal to make public and private computer services more competitive hints of information wars to come. SCIENCE 1981 June; 212 (5): 1125-1126.
2. Horowitz Gary L., Bleich HL. Paperchase: a computer program to search the medical literature. N ENGL J MED 1981 Oct; 305:924-930.

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BLOOD AND GUT

- IRENE SHANEFIELD

I think it was the graphic titles in medical literature that first grabbed my attention and made me want to work in a library with this kind of material. As a summer student in serial acquisitions at CISTI I remember searching an order for conference proceedings called "Total Knee Replacement",

During my second year as an MLS student my work at the reference desk of McGill's medical library, had me verifying these kinds of titles from indexes and bibliographies. It was only when I came to work at the RVH medical library which was by comparison much smaller, that I began to actually handle many of the books and journals themselves. The titles are short, disembodied; the glossy paper and photos, vivid and striking: Blood, Gut, Chest, Disease-A-Month, The Hand, Kidney International. Since collating for binding is one of my tasks, I am always roaming the stack area looking for single, mislaid issues, ruffling them for title pages and indexes, so I have lots of opportunity to skim medical journals at close range.

The RVH medical library is a relatively long-established one (1924). We have about 250 current subscriptions, mostly in the subjects allied to the residency and training programmes offered in the hospital which is a teaching hospital affiliated with McGill. Our collection includes material in surgery, haematology, anaesthesia, urology, rheumatology, paediatrics, nephrology, orthopaedics, gastroenterology, cardiology, to name but a few.

What struck me about the library itself when I first started was the atmosphere and home-like feeling. It is situated in the former nurses residence. The plaster ceiling is worked in laurel wreaths and there is an enormous fireplace of grey flagstones along the west wall and wood panelling along the windows. There is also a painting over the fireplace depicting an operation in progress in an otherwise deserted operating theatre taken from a phantom, visitor's-eye-view in the gallery. I've been told by one of the older physicians that Dr. Norman Bethune painted it and his name does seem to be the one lettered in muted red in the painting's lower left-hand corner.

Our clientele are, I find, always in a terrific rush. When I'm standing near the reserve book shelves, where we keep the latest editions of current, basic texts in medicine, they point and say, "Gimme the green one on the top shelf near your head". Everything I had learned about the niceties of grouping books by subject in Cataloguing class at library school suddenly means nothing. When I try to take 10 - 15 seconds to check the call number of the book because I don't see where he's pointing (since our books are grouped by subject) this sends them into a frenzy of frustration, more pointing, reaching and instructions: "More over on your left. Now on top, See that short book? O.K. Not that one. Two more further over". Some of the really harassed ones just stalk in behind the desk and help themselves. This has led me to wonder if classification schemes

are only for librarians. Especially in small special libraries. I'm thinking of radically modifying the existing scheme. I'll wrap all the reserve texts in bright primary colours and put them on a few numbered shelves and people can just say, "I want the yellow one on shelf three..."

It might be the irregular schedules that people have to keep that makes them appear to be in such a hurry. At ten P.M., closing time one evening I stood at the reserve desk politely explaining why Harrison's book on internal medicine doesn't leave the library over night to a young intern with eyes red-rimmed from lack of sleep. I went through all the careful rules about heavy demand and need on-the-spot availability. Suddenly, he burst out in exasperation: "Do you realize that I have to be back at the hospital at 6:00 A.M. tomorrow?" I said nothing. I have to be in at 9:00 A.M. I stamped out the book without saying more. When I looked in the return bin the next morning at 8:30 A.M. it was already back.

Another evening, a fellow still wearing his stethoscope at his throat requested a recent issue of Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery and asked me to unlock our A/V cabinet. He rummaged among the slides and selected some packets, sat down at the table in front of me and produced from his lab coat pocket some slides of his own and one of those small pocket slide viewers with the $2\frac{1}{2}$ X 2" screens. He spent the better part of an hour reading an article, making notes on short white foolscap, studying slides, (they appeared to be X-rays of the human hand) making more notes, rotating and comparing slides in the viewer, frequently referring back to his article. When he had done, he tamped and squared the edges of his papers, pocketing them, and came and plopped the pile of library materials on my desk, gave me a wide smile and said, "O.K. Now I'm sure about the operation I'll do tomorrow morning. G'night." and left.

In a hospital library, the users are often not dressed like ordinary people in plain street clothes. At first I thought I was normally dressed in ordinary skirts and slacks, but now it's gotten to the point where I feel I'm the one who is obtrusively different. I'm fascinated by the baggy pajama-like tops and roomy blue or green pants people who work in OR wear. The people in anaesthesia laugh a lot and wear clogs. Some never even bother to remove their disposable shoe covers. These shuffle and crackle comically at every step on the library carpet. I remember spending a good 15 minutes helping someone complete an ILL form all the while staring at the disposable green J-cloth OR hat pulled low on his forehead. I do not remember his face.

Other hospital librarians seem to be decent, honest people. One of my jobs is to periodically go through "duplicate" and "lacks" lists sent us by other hospital libraries. If they ask for a duplicate journal issue that we have I send it to them. If they have something I see we need (for binding a volume, say) I write and ask them for it. I was quite touched once, to receive an elaborate computer-generated cheque from a hospital library in another city made out in my name to re-imburse me for \$1.00 postage on two periodical numbers I had sent the librarian. Did she think I had paid the postage on those issues? Possibly not, but I put a dollar in the RVH medical library's petty cash box and kept the elaborate stub with my name on it and the address: Irene Deborah Shanefield, Royal Victoria Hospital Medical Library, as a souvenir. Somehow, personally addressed mail finally proved to me that I really do work here.

BUREAU DE DIRECTION DE L'ABSC / CHLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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